

A JOURNAL OF WESTERN OKLAHOMA

W E S T V I E W



Volume 21

Issue 2 *Spring/Summer*

Article 31

6-15-2002

The Reverend Thomas Burden Thinks of Jesus

Robert Cooperman

Follow this and additional works at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview>



Part of the [Fiction Commons](#), [Nonfiction Commons](#), [Photography Commons](#), and the [Poetry Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Cooperman, Robert (2002) "The Reverend Thomas Burden Thinks of Jesus," *Westview*: Vol. 21 : Iss. 2 , Article 31.

Available at: <https://dc.swosu.edu/westview/vol21/iss2/31>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at SWOSU Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Westview by an authorized administrator of SWOSU Digital Commons. For more information, please contact phillip.fitzsimmons@swosu.edu.



The Reverend Thomas Burden Thinks of Jesus

by Robert Cooperman

I used to believe Him
too good-natured about whores,
before I was blessed
with knowing Miss Mary LaFrance.
Lavinia wouldn't understand
our affection; no need to tell her.
I can see her measuring my flock
of rough miners against her daddy's
congregation of Boston bigwigs;
believing themselves higher
than God and my rough preaching,
her wishing in her silent heart
to be back with her Daddy.

He's dead, her aunt wrote,
the old raven flying down to Hell
after him: couldn't wait
to take up with him in the next life,
his housekeeper in this one
after his wife died;
the two biddies'll cat-claw
each other's eyes out in Perdition.

I'm all Mary's got in this world,
and tell her Jesus is the road
to her salvation in the next.
The trusting child believes me
with eyes dewy as the pure dawn,
while Lavinia smiles at my sermons
as if she's holy as God's Mother:
her way of saying my testifying's
nothing but chimney smoke.

